

A New Fountain and Features for Lost Lagoon in Stanley

This proposal outlines ideas to design-build a modern Fountain and a series of Aesthetic Features for Lost Lagoon in Stanley Park.

by

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Existing Lost Lagoon.....	4
What Culture Truly Means.....	13
Some Fountain and Feature Ideas from Other Great Metropolis	15
Proposed Fountains and Features for Lost Lagoon in Stanley Park.....	22
Landscaping and Modern Design.....	25
An Open Air Sculpture Gallery.....	28
Designating Stanley Park as a UNESCO Heritage Site.....	29
A Special Gift to Vancouver on Canada's 150 th Birthday.....	31
Time Lines, Estimates, and Costing.....	32

Executive Summary

Stanley Park is one of the major municipal parks within a major city in Canada. While it is not as well known, or as well developed, as the many great parks of Paris, or of London, Florence, Tokyo, Shanghai or of perhaps Grand Central Park in New York, Stanley Park has the potential to become one of the great metropolitan parks in the world. Vancouver is a young metropolis compared to the likes of Paris, London, Florence, Tokyo, Shanghai or New York.

The youthfulness of Vancouver in fact works to our advantage, for cultural sensibilities of Vancouver can reflect a modern sensibility while reflecting a nearly two hundred year historical heritage as well. Stanley Parks was officially opened on Sept. 27th 1888. It is now over 125 years old. In recent years it is estimated that around eight million people visit Stanley per year, many from around the world.

One of the underdeveloped and underutilized assets within Stanley Park is Lost Lagoon. This proposal outlines ideas to develop a modern Fountain and a series of features for Lost Lagoon in Stanley Park. The goal is to make this part of Stanley

Park something comparable to the finest fountains and features found in cities the likes of Paris, London, Florence, Tokyo, Shanghai or New York

Existing Lost Lagoon

The existing Lost Lagoon is a natural body of brackish water situated on the southeast side of Stanley Park in the West end of Vancouver. It is a body of water that fills space, but does not hold much aesthetic appeal amongst park visitors.

On occasion in the lagoon is to be found wild life such as domesticated white swans, and migrating fowl, such as Canadian geese, ducks, loons and herons, as well as sea gulls.

The existing lagoon has the following aerial view (North is to the right)

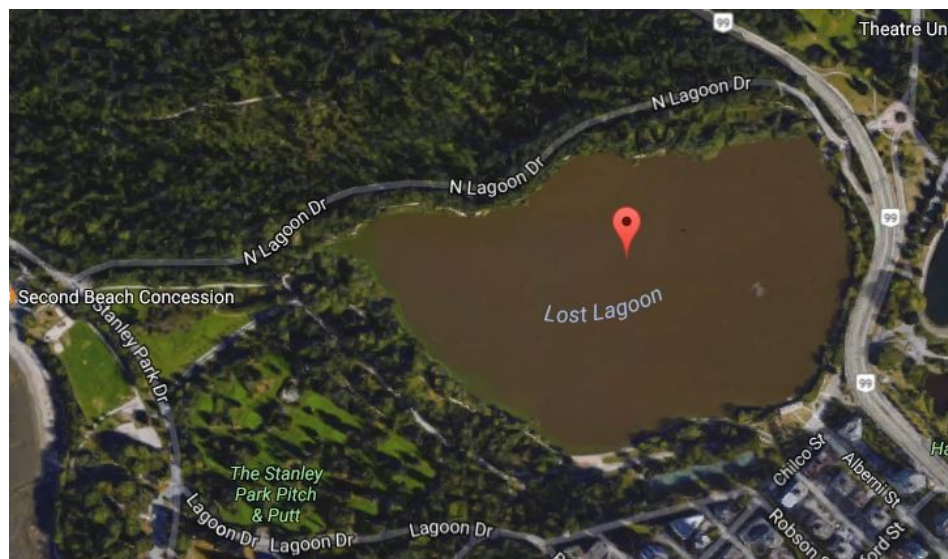


Fig. 1: Aerial View of Lost Lagoon

There is a remarkable opportunity to transform Lost Lagoon into a world class fountain and water feature, within a world class park. The transformation can involve an enhancement of both the natural character of this brackish body of water, as well as incorporating aesthetic and artistic features.

The existing water fountain, which is over fifty years old, is located near the indicator in the aerial view. The existing water fountain has been out of operation for a number of years, and will not be put back into service in the foreseeable future. The lagoon is presently a static feature in the park.

Pictures were taken during a walkabout around Lost Lagoon along the south and east public paths in early spring this year. Early spring was chosen so that the pictures could be taken before the leaves of the deciduous trees blocked the views. The walkabout yielded the following view lines looking across the body of water.

Starting from the southern tip of Lost Lagoon and walking east we find the body of water entirely hidden away from view (refer to Fig. 2: Looking North from Vantage Point A).



Fig. 2: Looking North from vantage point A

There are some low quality trees and bushes that block the view to Lost Lagoon towards the North. There are also some heritage trees as well. South of the Lagoon, the soil is of very poor quality and has limited horticultural viability. There is bracken and bushes in this region, which is adjacent to the drainage of the lagoon, which is located at the southern portion of this body of water.

As you walk east along the path the view lines begin to open both towards the water and towards the sky (refer to Fig. 3: Looking North from vantage point B)



Fig. 3: Looking North from vantage point B

The quality of the soil improves marginally. There is potential for horticultural features in this area.

As you proceed further east the view lines open even more. The public path also turns northward (refer to Fig. 4: Looking North from vantage point C).



Fig. 4: Looking North from vantage point C

The walk along the path past vantage point C takes the park visitor to the most open view of Lost Lagoon. It also takes the park visitor towards the causeway to the First Narrows Bridge / Highway 99.

Once you get past the small cluster of poor quality trees at the south-southeastern edge of the Lagoon the view to the body of water opens up significantly (refer to Fig. 5: Looking West from vantage point D).



Fig. 5: Looking West from vantage point D

Presently the best view lines to Lost Lagoon are from the eastern and the north eastern sides of the Lagoon. This means that almost 75 % of the view lines around the lagoon are obscured to one degree or another.

Presently only a handful of park visitors, people in cars driving along the causeway to Lions Gate Bridge, as well as a few privileged West Enders who happen to live in some apartments with a clear and unobstructed sight-line, have a fine view of the Lagoon.

One of the finest views of Lost Lagoon is looking North West on one of the public pathways (Fig. 6: Looking North West from vantage point E).



Fig. 6: Looking North West from vantage point E

It would be beneficial to all park visitors if the southern portion of Lost Lagoon had its sight-lines open to the same extent that the eastern portion is clear of obstructions.

Turning back towards the south we see the poor quality trees and bracken obscuring the view to Lost Lagoon (Fig. 7: Looking South West from vantage point F).



Fig. 7: Looking South West from vantage point F

Instead of being a forgotten part of Stanley Park, this part of the Lagoon could become a natural aesthetical draw for park

visitors. This area of the Lagoon, looking southwest, would be a natural spot for a modern fountain system and artistic features.

The View Lines and Vantage Points are outlined in Fig.8.



Fig. 8: The View Lines and Vantage Points in Fig. 2 to 7

In its existing state, and with a modest investment of time and money, Lost Lagoon presents wonderful possibilities for both natural and man-made features, as well as a modern lighted and computer controlled fountain.

In the next section of this presentation we discuss what Culture represents and outline some examples of fountains and features found in Paris, London, New York, Shanghai and Tokyo.

What Culture Truly Means

Great Metropolis like Paris, London, Florence, Tokyo, Shanghai or New York have remarkable cultural histories. One of the authors of this essay (Bruskiewich) has suggested for a number of years that Vancouver has the potential of becoming the Florence of the 21st century.

The great Metropolis of Paris, London, Florence, Tokyo, Shanghai or New York have evolved around a series of shared ideas that have lifted the human spirit and pass that spirit from one generation to the next. These places are places of culture achievement. They are also destination spots for tourists, business people, diplomats and scholars.

These cultural achievements have been the result of forward looking individuals who understand that cities are living things with a myriad of challenges and opportunities.

One example of this is the rebuilding of the heart of London after the great fire September 1666, which gutted the medieval city of London inside the old Roman city walls. The rebuilding of the

heart of London included the remarkable work as Sir Christopher Wren. This remarkable cultural undertaking by Sir Christopher Wren and his colleagues is one of the key reasons London is today considered one of the great Metropolis of the world.

Another example is the *Haussman Renovation* of Paris that began in the middle of the 19th century and formally ended in 1927, after a span of 75 years. The street plan and distinctive appearance of modern day Paris is largely a result of the *Haussman Renovation*. This remarkable cultural undertaking is one of the key reasons Paris is today considered one of the great metropolis of the world.

Key to understanding what make a city a great Metropolis is an understanding of what *Culture* truly means. The word *Culture* in this context has several meanings:

- i) The ideas, customs, skills, arts of a people or group, that are transferred, communicated, or passed along, as in or to succeeding generations;
- ii) development, improvement, or refinement of the intellect, emotions, interests, manners and taste; the result of this refined ways of thinking, talking and acting;

iii) development or improvement of physical quantities by special training or care.

There is a culture of sorts in place in Vancouver that is based to a great extent on the natural beauty of the city and on a *laissez-faire* life style.

From the 1940's to the late 1960's Vancouver had more neon signs on its streets than any city on the West Coast of North America. This artistic and architectural heritage all but melted away, one sign at a time, by the 1980's. As part of the proposed fountain and features for Lost Lagoon, there is an opportunity to return such beautiful colour and artistry to Vancouver.

During the 1950's to late 1970's Vancouver was also known for its musical night spots and exceptional R & B, Jazz and live performance venues and restaurants. Featured performers like Sinatra use to come north from the US to Vancouver to perform live. This culture all but melted away in the 1980's, to be replaced by night clubs that occasionally feature live performers, but mostly provide canned music and a relatively unrefined *laissez-faire* life style. As part of the proposed fountain and features for Lost Lagoon, there is an opportunity to revive a musical heritage to Vancouver.

As the city of Vancouver grows, a distance is opening between its citizens and the natural surroundings of the region. It is getting more and more difficult for the city existence to reconcile with the natural beauty of the lower mainland.

This beckons to a need to set in place significant cultural achievements, and corners of public spaces that help to lift the spirit of the citizens of Vancouver, as well as those many millions visitors who come to Vancouver each year on business, as students or as tourists.

Some Fountain and Feature Ideas from Other Great Metropolis

Let us look at some fountains and features from the great Metropolis to get some idea of the scale and grandeur of what might be possible for Lost Lagoon.

In Florence, there are a number of fountains and statues that are major works of art that are meant to draw interest in public spaces. The Fathers of Florence understood that wonderful art

in public spaces created a cultured spirit and also drew visitors who travelled from all over to '*see Florence before they died.*' This cultural policy has been in place since the early part of the 16th century.



Fig. 9: Plaza della Signora, Florence

An example of such art is the fountain in the Plaza della Signora (refer to Fig. 9). There are also other famous works such as Michelangelo's David. Rome has a number of grand fountains, such as the Eternal Fountain, which can also be looked at for comparison.

In Paris there are many public parks and fountains, some that date back to the 16th century. For instance, there is the Grande Fountain at Versailles (Refer to Fig. 10).



Fig. 10: Grande Fountain at Versailles

In and around Paris there are at least a dozen notable fountains, some in parks and some in roundabouts. Some of these

fountains and features were built during the *Haussman Restoration*.

In London, perhaps the most famous fountain is the one at Trafalgar Square which is named in tribute to Lord Nelson who defeated the combined French and Spanish Fleets off the Cape of Trafalgar in October 1805 (refer to Fig. 11: The Fountain at Trafalgar Square).



Fig. 11: The Fountain at Trafalgar Square

In the square is Nelson's Spire or Column with a statue of Nelson at its peak. Canada House is located adjacent to Trafalgar Square.

In New York there is Grand Central Park and the Bethesda Terrace Fountain (refer to Fig. 12: Bethesda Terrace Fountain, Grand Central Park)



Fig. 12: Bethesda Terrace Fountain, Grand Central Park

There are also some smaller features such as *Alice in Wonderland* in the Garden Conservatory (refer to Fig. 13: Alice

in Wonderland). This feature is a favorite with children who are allowed to clamber all over the feature.



Fig. 13: Alice in Wonderland, Grand Central Park

The tale of *Alice in Wonderland* is a story that over 50% of the English Speaking World has read or heard about.

There is a small feature in Stanley Park of the *Little Mermaid*, which sits on a rock separate from the rest of the world. This

sculpture is based on a tale by the Danish author Hans Christian Andersen of the *Little Mermaid* who is willing to give up her life in the sea and her identity as a mermaid to become human and acquire a human soul.

In Shanghai there is the Musical Fountain which has lights and fountain features that are computer controlled (Fig. 14: The Musical Fountain, Shanghai).



Fig. 14: The Musical Fountain, Shanghai

This musical fountain is one of the most modern in the world. Several nice videos of the fountain in operation are available on the internet.

Proposed Fountains and Features for Lost Lagoon in Stanley Park

The old fountain at Lost Lagoon was for many years the only active aesthetic feature in Lost Lagoon. Following a storm a few years ago which damaged the services to the old fountain, it has been out of operation.

It is proposed that a new lighted, computer controlled fountain be installed in Lost Lagoon, not necessarily where the old fountain was, but perhaps at a part of the body of water that is towards the south east of Lost Lagoon (refer to Fig. 15: Proposed Fountain Area).



Fig. 15: Proposed Fountain Area

The central feature of the fountain might be a fixed sculpture such as a Mermaid, surrounded by features that represent some of the marine animals that are found on the west coast, such as salmon, herring, Orca, dolphins and the like. One of the authors (Salome) has suggested that the central feature be that of a Mermaid expecting a child, to symbolize the rich fertility and fecundity of the Pacific Ocean (refer to Fig. 16: La Sirène Enceinte).



Fig. 16: La Sirène Enceinte

The fountain may include a variable water curtain as a backdrop. The water curtain may include aerated water which is illuminated by multicolored, computer controlled lights.

Surrounding La Sirène Enceinte (the Expectant Mermaid) could be a circular fountain that imitates the jumping of fish by the ever increasing jumping of water from one oceanic creature to

the next, such as may be found in, for instance, in the Versailles Grande Fountain.

Where the inoperative existing fountain is located perhaps a giant sculpture of Neptune, the mythological *God of the Sea* could be contemplated, along the lines of the lovely sculpture at the heart of the fountain in the Plaza della Signora (refer back to Fig. 9).

To complement the new water fountain and features, as well as to open appropriate site lines, a well thought out landscaping and horticultural program should be undertaken concurrently. In the next section of this proposal more detail will be provided on garden and horticultural design.

In front of the new fountain could be a removable stage which could be used for live musical performances and symphony presentations. To add to the acoustics a bowl, like the *Hollywood Bowl* could be a temporary structure set in place whenever needed for special events.

Landscaping and Modern Design

There are two very famous garden cities in the world; Paris in France and Suzhou in China. We do not want to copy from the others, but we can take the *JINGHUA* of the best in history and develop the identical and fascinating beauty of gardening.

One of the proponents in this submission (Salome) graduated from the Architecture Department of the University of Suzhou. She was taught and influenced by the great historical landscaping (refer to Fig. 17: 18th Century Drawing of Suzhou), city design, gardens and architecture in Suzhou, which was the reason she chose to go to Suzhou University.



Fig. 17: 18th Century Drawing of Suzhou

There are numbers of remarkable gardens in Suzhou which really impressed her, just like they impress the world. There are about 40million people every year who visit Suzhou, a small city not too far from Shanghai. Shanghai is the biggest city in the PRC (population 23 million). Many visitors to Shanghai decide to visit Suzhou, as it is known as *The Garden of Shanghai* (refer to Fig. 18: A Modern Garden in Suzhou).



Fig. 18: A Modern Garden in Suzhou

After she graduated from university in Suzhou, she went to Paris to continue the study of art. Salome was inspired by a famous architect- I. M. Pei who grow up in Suzhou and later emigrated to the United States where he became a world renown architect.

Mr. Pei did the unique design of the JFK Presidential Library in Boston , as well as the Pyramid and Fountains of Le Musée de Louvre in Paris (refer to Fig. 19: Pyramid and Fountains of Le Musée de Louvre in Paris)and many other famous architectural projects around the world. In many of Mr. Pei's designs, we can see the spirit of Suzhou garden.



Fig. 17: Pyramid and Fountains at Le Musée de Louvre in Paris

Mr. Pei has been an inspiration to Salome, and one of her dreams is to design an architectural and artistic masterpiece like those of Mr. I.M.Pei.

Salome was fortunately had the opportunity to study in France, I have visited and studied the French landscaping, city design and architecture, which really have enriched my artistic and foundational knowledge in design

This submission will be sent to Mr. I.M.Pei with a request as to whether he might want to work with us and provide some ideas or recommendations for this project, and perhaps participate in the design of the new water fountain and features for Lost Lagoon.

An Open Air Sculpture Gallery

It would actually be wonderful if the City of Vancouver would to consider an Open Air Sculpture Gallery adjacent to Lost Lagoon with sculptures similar to that of *Alice in Wonderland* specifically for children, and children at heart.

The statues could be that of story book characters like *Peter Rabbit and his friends*, or *Winnie the Pooh and his friends*, or perhaps even *Alice in Wonderland*.

Designating Stanley Park as a UNESCO Heritage Site

It would be wonderful if Stanley Park could join other Canadian city centres and National Parks as an International Heritage Sites. The idea is to propose that Stanley Park be named a ***UNESCO World Heritage Site*** in the same way that the Citadelle in Quebec City and several other sites in Canada are ***UNESCO World Heritage Site***.

Two hundred and twenty five years ago, in 1792, was when Captain Vancouver sailed into Burrard Inlet on his great voyage of discovery and survey of the Pacific North West about *HMS Discovery* and *HMS Chatham*. The City of Vancouver is named in honor of Captain George Vancouver.

Mr. Bruskiewich helped with the subsequent efforts in the mid-1980's to designate the Citadelle in Quebec City a ***UNESCO World Heritage Site***. (refer to: <https://archive.org/details/Mr.MulroneyMr.ReaganGiveUsHopeForTheFuture>).

The choice of the Citadelle as the locale for the St. Patrick's Day Summit in 1985 between the President of the United States Mr. Reagan and the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Mulroney was made by Mr. Bruskiewich in a personal letter to the PM in 1984.

In 1943 the Citadelle was where the creation of the United Nations was first formally discussed between the President of the United States Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Prime Minister of Great Britain the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill and the Prime Minister of Canada the Rt. Hon. William Lyons MacKenzie King.

The 1994 Summit in Vancouver between the POTUS Mr. Clinton and the President of Russia Mr. Yeltsin was also a consequence of Mr. Bruskiewich's 1984 letter to the PMO in which he asked the Parliament of Canada to act as an intermediary between the two superpowers.

The Canadian Commissioner to UNESCO in Paris stands ready to assist the City of Vancouver in submitting this proposal. Mr. Bruskiewich would be honored to assist in efforts to designate Stanley Park a ***UNESCO World Heritage Site***.

A Special Gift to Vancouver on Canada's 150th Birthday

The first day of July, 2017 is the 150th birthday of the Dominion of Canada which was established on the 1st of July, 1867.

This year is also the 225th anniversary of the voyage of discovery undertaken by Captain George Vancouver and the Royal Navy.

In the way of this submission, both Salome and Patrick would like to suggest the water fountain and features proposal to the People of Canada as a fitting gift on Canada's 150th birthday.

This fountain and features project may be undertaken concurrent with designating Stanley Park as a ***UNESCO Heritage Site***.

There should be a *Grand Identifying Architectural Feature* in Vancouver like the Tour Eiffel in Paris, or the Gardens in Suzhou. Perhaps the fountain and features for Lost Lagoon could be such a feature.

Time Lines, Estimates, and Costing

The time to design, build and commission the fountain and features outlined in this proposal is between 24 to 36 months dependent on the time needed for concept approval and project design.

Construction and commissioning of the fountain would take between 12 and 18 months. The time to implement the features and gardening portion of this proposal is estimated at 24 months.

The total cost for the fountain and features outlined in this proposal is estimated to be on the order of \$ 2 to \$ 3 million (CDN).

Mr. Bruskiewich stands ready to assist in the design and implementation of this proposal.